

IOWA BOARD OF NURSING

In RE: Petition for)	Declaratory Ruling No. 68
Declaratory Ruling Filed By)	
Veronica Zenti, R.N., B.S.N.)	RN Delegation to a Nonlicensed
November 8, 1994)	Health Associate Employed in:
)	the Same School District the
)	Clean, Intermittent Catheteri-
)	zation With Instillation of
)	Neomycin Sulfate 1% Solution
)	to a Student in the School

A petition for declaratory ruling was filed with the Iowa Board of Nursing by Veronica Zenti, Johnston, Iowa, on November 8, 1994.

The Board is authorized to issue declaratory rulings "as to the applicability of any statutory provision, rule, or other written statement of law or policy, decision, or order of the agency" pursuant to Iowa Code § 17A.9 (1993). See also 655 IAC 9.

The question presented in the petition was:

May an RN employed in the Johnston Community School District, Johnston, Iowa, delegate to a nonlicensed health associate employed in the same school district, the clean, intermittent catheterization with instillation of neomycin sulfate 1% solution to a student in the school?

Facts leading to this request are as follows:

The Johnston Community School District has an enrollment of approximately 2800 students located in four school buildings. It employs two full-time registered nurses; each nurse is responsible for two buildings. There is a nonlicensed health associate in the building when the RN is in the other building.

Attending school all day is a young student with a myelomeningocele with L-4 motor, L-5 sensory involvement;

neurogenic bladder and bowel; weakness of lower extremities; and right side V-P shunt. The student is ambulatory and independent except for her elimination needs. The student's physician has ordered clean, intermittent catheterization with instillation of neomycin sulfate 1% solution five times daily. The student requires clean, intermittent catheterization twice during the school hours. The child's parents report that the physician stated that instillation of the neomycin sulfate at the time of each catheterization is essential. The student requires the catheterization once while the RN is in the building and once while the health associate is in the building. Developmentally, the student is not ready to independently meet her own elimination needs.

Additional facts are:

The student's parents perform the procedure during the hours the child is at home. Last year a day care provider performed the procedure. The student has been free from urinary tract infections for the past three years. The school nurse reports that the child's health status is stable and the risk factor for this procedure is low. The student's parents have consented to this arrangement and will remain in direct contact with the school nurse regarding any changes in their child's health status. The delegation of this procedure will enable this student to continue in her regular school program.

Rationale:

The Iowa Board of Nursing considers the intermittent clean catheterization with instillation of neomycin sulfate solution to be a nursing function. However, due to the particular facts and circumstances in this case, an RN employed by Johnston Community School District may delegate the task to a nonlicensed health associate employed by the district provided:

1. The registered nurse provides inservice education for the nonlicensed health associate related to the procedure, safety issues, and possible complications.

2. The registered nurse observes the successful demonstration of the task by the health associate and documentation thereof is contained in the personnel file of the health care associate.

3. The registered nurse reviews the procedure, observes at least one clean intermittent catheterization with instillation of solution by the health associate on a quarterly basis to assess skills.

4. The registered nurse provides for the health care associate, annual review of the procedure and complications; and documentation thereof is contained in the personnel file of the health care associate.

5. The registered nurse will instruct the health associate to seek assistance of the registered nurse if the possibility of complications exists.

The registered nurse shall retain accountability for the actions that are delegated.

Nancy E. Knutstrom

Nancy E. Knutstrom, R.N., M.S., Ed.
Chairperson
Iowa Board of Nursing

December 1, 1994

Date

Lorinda K. Inman

Lorinda K. Inman, R.N., M.S.N.
Executive Director
Iowa Board of Nursing

December 1, 1994

Date